Multicultural Literature

**Mr. Pedersen**

Welcome to my class and to the study of cultures through literature, a worthwhile and, hopefully, enjoyable thing to study. It is my goal to help everyone here improve as readers and writers. No matter how skilled or unskilled you think you are now, you must finish the semester better than you are now, because improvement is the goal. In order to accomplish this improvement, we will follow the policies and outline below.

# Objectives

* To read well enough to succeed at a high school level or above
* To write well enough to succeed at a high school level or above
* To be able to interpret and analyze literature from a variety of cultures
* To recognize literary elements
* To communicate ideas and analysis in different ways
* To configure what culture meets the need of each individual

Basic Needs

* A pen or pencil
* Paper, loose or in a notebook
* Something to keep papers in
* The book we are reading at the time

Some Basic Rules

* Bring the items on the list above. Don’t lose your book or it will cost you $$$.
* There will be a zero-tolerance policy for late work. That is, ***no*** late work will be accepted. You are juniors and seniors now – you should be able to handle this. Excuses won’t be heard.
* If you are using a phone in my class, there is no warning, I am taking it away. You have the ability to use this at other times now, so you don’t need to use it in the classroom.
* As for ipods, mp3 players, or other music devices, you may use them *only* when I give you class time to read. Once they become a distraction, I get to add to my collection. Your phone does not count for a music device, either.
* Food and beverages are fine, as long as they don’t become distractions. Once they do, the class will no longer be able to have them.
* Computer lab time is graciously given to work on writing assignments only. Games or any other use or abuse of the computer will not be permitted.
* If you need to use the bathroom, please ask before the bell rings, or when there is spare/extra time in class – not during the middle of class.
* Time given at the end of class **to work** is to be spent **working.**

# Grading Scale

93 - 100 A

86 - 92 B

77 - 85 C

70 - 76 D

0 - 70 F

Overview

* There are several texts we will examine this semester. There will be reading inside of the classroom, so it is expected you stay quiet, pay attention and listen.
* If you fall behind in any book we are reading due to absences/not paying attention, I highly suggest you catch up and keep up.
* You will be asked to read outside of the classroom, so don’t think you just need the 46 minutes in my room to stay afloat.
* You will also be reading one book per quarter outside of class in a small group.
* You will make a presentation on a culture of your choice with a couple partners.
* There will be random quizzes throughout each text to ensure you are doing your reading, short answer questions, as well as discussion questions.
* There will also be several essays and sometimes a final essay/project at the end of a book, along with random activities throughout.
* It is also expected that you participate in class, whether it’s through reading or discussion, which is essential in interpreting literature.

### Unit 1 Kite Runner

**Unit 2 I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings**

**Unit 3 Things Fall Apart**

**Sub-units****Literature Circles**

* **Secret Life of Bees**
* **Monster**
* **Flight**
* **Shabanu**
* **The Alchemist**

**Multimedia Presentations**

\*Ever hear of a Wiki page? I will have a Wiki page that you can look at throughout the year for updates/reminders/attachments from class. This way, if you lost an assignment, you won’t have an excuse for not doing your homework! Go to *www.dontbeanidiom.wikispaces.com* to take a look!

**Final Exam**

\*\*\*The final exam will consist of an essay question from all books. Yes, there are exemptions.